



Alumni News

Potomac State College
of West Virginia University
Keyser, West Virginia



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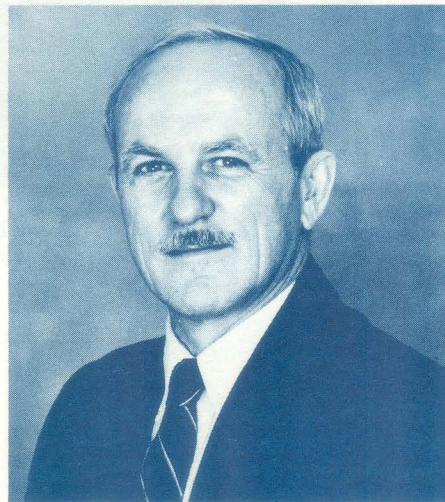
Gratto Named Executive Dean

Dr. Joseph M. Gratto assumed the position of Executive Dean of Potomac State College of West Virginia University on November 1. He becomes the eleventh chief executive officer since the founding of the College in 1902.

The College held a reception for the Grattos on November 9. Attending were members of the faculty and staff, alumni, friends, and townspeople.

Prior to coming to Potomac State Dr. Gratto served as dean of general education at DeVry Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. He was a member of the school's leadership team as it moved from an associate to a baccalaureate-degree-granting institution.

At DeVry he supervised all course work in the humanities, social sciences, business and management, as well as coordinating computer-assisted instruction, academic support for developmental



Dr. Joseph M. Gratto

studies, and faculty development programs.

A 21-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, he is a retired Lieutenant Colonel. His last position was director of the joint training exercise of the U.S. Forces Command. Formerly he had been chief of instruction at the Marine Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, VA.

During the Vietnam War Dr. Gratto served in Vietnam several times. He was intelligence officer for the First Marine Regiment at the battle of Hue City during the Tet Offensive and later served as operations officer of Khe Sanh. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm, three Presidential unit commendations, and others. He also served in Washington, D.C. as chief of community relations and press officer for the Marine Corps.

A graduate of Lehigh University, Gratto was student government

president, president of ODK, and president of Cyanide, junior class honorary. While at Lehigh he twice captained the varsity wrestling team and in 1957 won the NCAA championship in the 137-pound class. He was later All-Marine Corps Champion, held various AAU titles, and was an alternate on the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team.

In 1962 Dr. Gratto attended the University of North Carolina as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in English. Later he earned an MA degree in psychological counseling from Pepperdine University and a doctorate in liberal studies from Emory University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College.

His wife, the former Barbara Brown, is from Herndon, VA. She is a graduate of Mary Washington College. The couple has two daughters, Katherine and Susan, both married.

Foundation Fund Drive Continues

Your Potomac State College Foundation is continuing its 1987-88 drive for funds. Included with this special edition of the Alumni Newsletter is an opportunity for you to help your Alma Mater and its students. Please read the enclosed letter carefully.

Also don't forget your alumni dues, \$7.50 single or \$10, where both husband and wife are alumni.

Alumnus Killed In Denver Crash

Richard L. Cook '56 Boise, Idaho, formerly of Westernport, was among the 28 passengers killed at Stapleton Airport, Denver, CO, in the crash of Continental Flight 1713, Sunday, November 15.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mary Crites, '56, and one married daughter.

Homecoming '87 Well Attended

A beautiful fall weekend brought out a large crowd of parents and alumni for the annual Homecoming-Parents' Day Celebration, Saturday, October 24.

Following a Saturday morning of visiting among faculty, parents, and alumni at the Student Union Coffee Hour, guests enjoyed the traditional afternoon football game where the Catamounts were victorious over Stevens Tech 40-12. A reception for visitors was held in the Student Union following the game.

A capacity crowd (200+) of alumni, faculty and friends of Potomac State College turned out for the Alumni Association's annual banquet that evening. Judge C. Reeves Taylor '54, president of the Association, presided at the affair, which was highlighted by the presentation of alumni-sponsored awards.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mrs. Mary (Shipper) Byrer, Martinsburg, retired head librarian. In his presentation, the Reverend J.A. Gullick characterized Mrs. Byrer with two words: "friend" because she has a unique ability to be a friend, and "courage," which she always demonstrated as a distinguished servant of the college.

In her acceptance, Mrs. Byrer said, "I am delighted and flattered to be chosen for this honor." She cited Thomas Wolfe's book title, "You Can't Go Home Again," saying that in her case it was not true. She had come home to the college she loves and to her Keyser friends. "I am overjoyed and thank you from the bottom of my heart," she concluded.

Mrs. Betty (Oates) Crogan '41, Kingwood, presented the Alumni Achievement Award to her former classmate, Miss Juliann Ritter, Clarksburg. Mrs. Crogan enumerated the substantial contributions the award winner had made to nursing both on the state and national level.

Miss Ritter credited the Potomac State College Faculty during her student days for making her and her classmates thirsty for education. "We were given a great basic education at Potomac State," she said,



Pictured above are the principals at the 1987 Alumni Association Homecoming Banquet. Left to right are Mrs. Joseph Gratto; Prof. Kenneth F. Haines, secretary; Dr. Joseph Gratto, newly appointed executive dean; Associate Dean Nancy Hockensmith, and; Judge C. Reeves Taylor, president.

"which served to lead us on the right paths of life." Many of her 1941 classmates were in attendance.

Dr. Joseph M. Gratto, newly appointed executive dean of the college, and his wife, Barbara, were introduced. In his remarks Dr. Gratto said he was approaching his new position fully cognizant of the challenges and opportunities it offers. He asked alumni to help preserve and advance the best interests of their alma mater.

The Classes of 1937 and 1962, celebrating their golden and silver anniversaries, were introduced by Professor Kenneth F. Haines, secretary-treasurer of the Association. Mrs. Lena (Oss) Davis, Keyser, was recognized as representing the earliest class present, that of 1920.

Professor Haines reported that the Potomac State College Foundation had awarded \$42,000 in scholarships to 58 students this year. He also noted three new scholarships since last year's banquet. They are the Blackburn-Brown Scholarship, the Arnold and Anna Rose Haggery Memorial Scholarship, and the Ruth Ward Davis Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

During the business meeting Mrs. Elizabeth (Parker) Hanlin, '41,

chair of the nominating committee, proposed the following slate for three-year terms: incumbents Margaret (Haywood) Wolfe '34 and C. Edwin Jordan, Sr. '32; and new member Patricia (Arnold) Hovis '52. Election was by acclamation. Serving with Mrs. Hanlin were Lorna (Stewart) Bright '47 and Clara (Spotts) Kauffman '41.

The Rev. W.W. Harvey '31 gave the invocation. The event closed with the singing of the Alma Mater with Mrs. Katharine Church accompanying.

Flowers at the head table were placed in memory of the late Senator William Oates, a past president of the Association. Mrs. Patty Bell, administrative secretary for alumni affairs, was in charge of arrangements for the event.

*Please Help Us
Recruit Good
Students!*